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Letter dated 17 August 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as the representative of the current Chairman of the African Union, I have the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its fifteenth meeting, held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 17 August 2004 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Simeon A. **Adekanye**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations
Representative of the current Chairman of the African Union

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Annex to the letter dated 17 August 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Communiqué of the fifteenth meeting of the Peace and Security Council

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its fifteenth meeting held on 17 August 2004, adopted the following Communiqué on the situation in Burundi:

Council,

1. Strongly condemns the massacre of Congolese refugees of the Banyamulenge community, which occurred in Gatumba, Burundi, on the night of 13 August 2004, and expresses its condolences to all the bereaved families. Council urges that the perpetrators of this hideous act be identified and brought to justice without delay;

2. Expresses its support for the efforts of the United Nations to investigate and establish the facts on the Gatumba massacre, in accordance with the UN Security Council Presidential Statement of 15 August 2004;

3. Stresses the urgent need to establish the Joint DRC/Rwanda Verification Mechanism, in keeping with the spirit of the 27 November 2003 Declaration and on the basis of the commitments made in Abuja on 25 June 2004. In this respect, Council requests the Chairperson of the Commission to undertake the necessary consultations with the concerned Parties and the United Nations in order to speed-up the establishment of the Mechanism;

4. Recalls the decision taken at its 12th meeting, held on 4 July 2004, in which it requested the Chairperson of the Commission, pursuant to the communiqué of 21st Summit of the Regional Initiative, to examine the activities of the PALIPEHUTU/FNL in the light of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, as well as other relevant Decisions and Instruments, and to submit to it appropriate recommendations on the measures that could be taken. Council also reiterates its appeal to all Member States to implement the decision of the 21st Summit of the Regional Initiative to impose, with immediate effect, restrictions on the movements of the leaders and members of the PALIPEHUTU/FNL;

5. Stresses the urgent need to neutralize the negative forces in the DRC and in the Great Lakes Region by taking steps to put an end to their criminal activities, and requests the Chairperson of the Commission to initiate without delay consultations with all the countries of the region, as well as with the United Nations and the other concerned actors, with a view to submitting to it proposals on the measures that should be taken to accomplish that objective;

6. Appeals to all the countries of the region to exercise restrain in their response to this latest massacre and to preserve in their efforts to consolidate peace and stability in the Region;

7. Decides to remain seized with the matter.